



# Montana Drought Advisory Committee

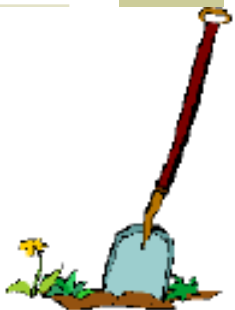
**USDA NASS  
Montana Field Office  
Lindsey Houska  
Statistician**

October 19, 2007



# Topsoil Moisture Ahead of Last Month & 5-Yr Average

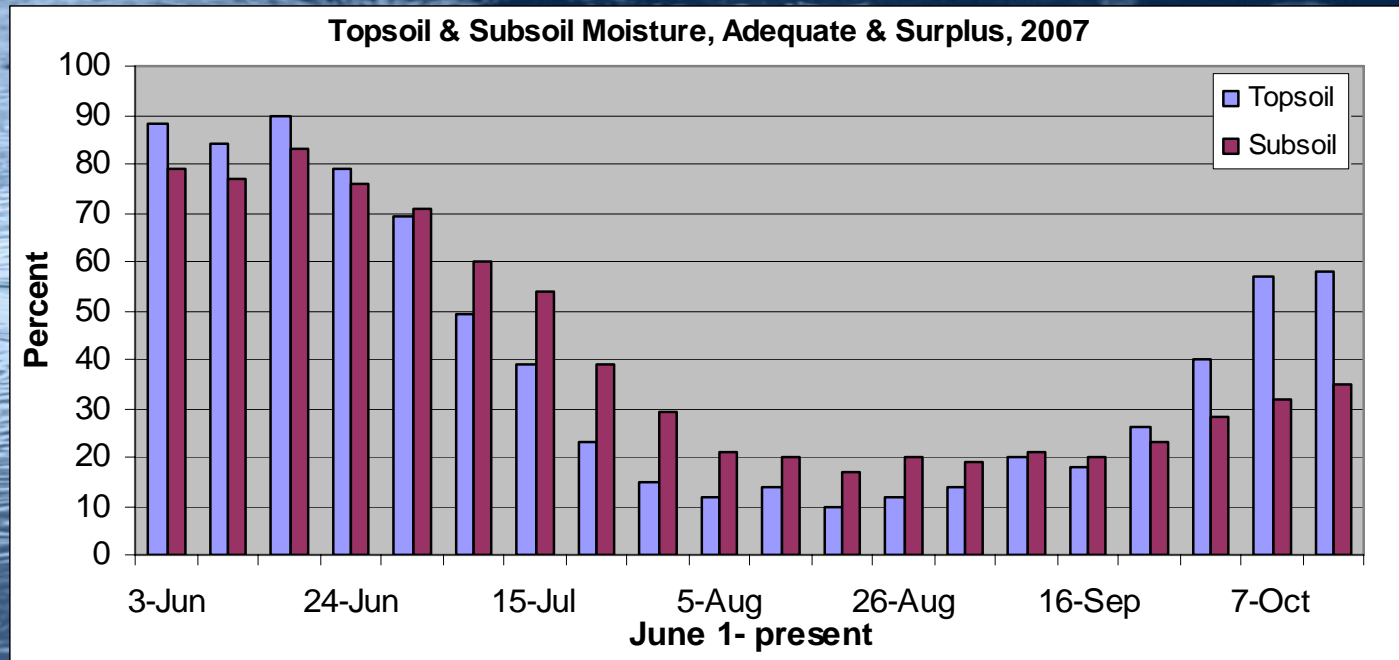
October 15, 2007	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short – short	43%	82%	24%	54%
Adequate	54%	16%	70%	44%
Surplus	4%	2%	6%	2%



# Subsoil Moisture Ahead of Last Month & 5-Yr Average

October 15, 2007	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	65%	80%	64%	75%
Adequate	34%	19%	35%	24%
Surplus	1%	1%	1%	1%

Recent Rains have improved overall  
soil conditions across Montana  
More needed more for subsoil.





# Winter Wheat

**Planting is almost complete.  
More has germinated this year  
than last year at this time.  
Recent precipitation gave  
winter wheat a needed boost.**



# Winter Wheat Seeded and Emerged

October 15, 2007	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
<b>Winter wheat</b> seeded	91%	91%	93%
emerged	55%	48%	57%



# Range & Pasture Feed Condition Better than Last Month, Last Year, and 5-Year Average

October 15, 2007	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr avg
Very poor - poor	32%	37%	39%	48%
Fair	40%	38%	40%	34%
Good	23%	21%	17%	16%
Excellent	5%	4%	4%	2%



# Livestock Movement From Summer Ranges Ahead of 5-year Average

October 15, 2007	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Cattle	63%	64%	62%
Sheep	70%	59%	62%





# 2007 Small Grain Summary

Crop	2007	2006
<u>Winter Wheat</u>		
Planted acres	2,240,000	1,950,000
Harvested acres	2,190,000	1,920,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	38.0	43.0
Production (bushels)	83,220,000	82,560,000
<u>Spring Wheat</u>		
Planted	2,450,000	2,950,000
Harvested	2,400,000	2,900,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	23.0	22.0
Production (bushels)	55,200,000	63,800,000



## Small Grain Summary Continued

Crop	2007	2006
<u>Durum Wheat</u>		
Planted	480,000	400,000
Harvested	475,000	395,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	24.0	17.0
Production (bushels)	11,400,000	6,715,000
<u>Barley</u>		
Planted	900,000	770,000
Harvested	720,000	620,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	44.0	50.0
Production (bushels)	31,680,000	31,000,000



# Small Grain Summary Continued

Crop	2007	2006
<u>Oats</u>		
Planted	75,000	70,000
Harvested	35,000	24,000
Yield (bushels/acre)	52.0	46.0
Production (bushels)	1,820,000	1,104,000



# To Sum It Up

- ◆ Topsoil and Subsoil Conditions have improved from last month and are better than the five-year average
- ◆ Winter wheat received good moisture to get off to an excellent start
- ◆ Pasture & range feed condition better than last month, last year & the 5-year average
- ◆ Increase in planted acres of winter wheat, durum wheat, barley, and oats and a decrease in spring wheat acreage
- ◆ Overall a good year for small grain production